THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF ROSE CULTURE
ACCORDING TO DR. CYNTHIA WESTCOTT

The Ten Commandments of rose culture are tempered with common senaecording to where one lives and one's experience.

1. Locate beds properly: 6 hours of sunshine, preferably eastern or southern exposure - away from large trees or shrubs and cement foundations. Plant by themselves or with low growing plants.

2. Prepare soil thoroughly: Any soil which will grow good vegetables will grow good roses. Dig to a depth of 20 inches - add 1/3 as much rotted manure, compost or peat moss - a little bone meal - mix well. Sharp sand added to heavy clay improves drainage.

3. Plant carefully: Dig hole approximately 20" x 20" x 20" - spread roots over mound in center - cut broken or very long roots - fill hole $\frac{3}{4}$ full - water well - work soil in with hands - finish filling hole. Pile excess soil around rose stems. Plant 18" to 24" inches apart depending on size. Catalogue your roses with a diagram as to location.

4. Prune with common sense: Prune new roses after growth begins, cutting above outward growing bud. Prune established roses, removing some old canes each year. Leave 3 to 5 canes per bush. Make cuts at a 45° angle, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above bud eye. Note: The higher you prune the earlier the bloom. Remove all pruned material, dead leaves, etc.. Don't remove seemingly "dead" bushes until the end of June - some are slow starters.

5. Feed judiciously: Established roses: - feed as new growth appears, then regularly every 3 to 4 weeks until mid-August - none thereafter. Never fertilize a dry rose - roots could be burned. New roses: Feed after first flush of bloom. Organic fertilizers should be used in company with chemical ones.

6. Water prudently: Roses are heavy drinkers. They like to drink more than they like to eat - BUT - they don't like wet feet. (Good drainage necessary) Apply water - preferably at ground level - 1 gallon of water per plant per week, depending on conditions. Overhead watering should be in early morning or late afternoon - not in hot sun.

7. Milch & relax: Roses like cool roots. Mulch applied before 1st bloom discourages weeds, reduces loss of moisture, prevents soil crusting and delays infestation of Black Spot. It also protects blooms from spatter and improves the soil when worked in.

8. Treat for disease and pests regularly: Regular spraying every 10 - 12 days. Systemic chemicals are the best preventative. Use spray or dust forms or apply at root level. Practice "good housekeeping".

9. Winter protection: Water well until freeze-up. Leave some bloom to set seed after September 1. Prune after killing frost to 12 to 18 inches. Tie canes for easier handling. Mound with dry medium (10 inches), add hay, straw or leaves to 2 - 3 foot depth. Apply loose waterproof cover on top only.

10. LOVE YOUR ROSES: A brief daily inspection familiarizes the rosarian with growth habit and intimate knowledge of individual bushes; helps to find disease before it gets a good start. Share your blooms - Spread Joy and Happiness.